

Good afternoon! My name is Emily Brownlee, I live in Overland Park, and I am the mother of four children ages 14, 12, 10, and 7. I have a Master's Degree in Secondary Education, I've been trained by the medically backed non-profit ScreenStrong, and I to speak to educators, parents and teens around the country about how screentime hinders healthy brain development. Thank you for listening to my testimony supporting SB 302.

I am sure some of you have heard that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now. The best time to have stopped Social Media's predatory ways would have been 20 years ago. The second best time is TODAY.

Our children live in world where evil is profitable. Where views, likes, comments, and outrage are celebrated over moral character, peace, safety, and privacy. Our children exist in a world where they are incredibly vulnerable to predation, addiction, depression, anxiety and suicidality - all of which are promoted and glorified on social media.

We need to protect kids and teachers alike from crossing the professional boundary schools have had in place for decades. As a former high school teacher and coach, I am keenly aware how dangerous it is that schools have allowed students and faculty 24/7 access to each other on unregulated social media platforms, some of which that have disappearing content and messaging. I understand how we were lured as a society by these dopamine-inducing platforms, but all that has been left in the dust, is a serious youth mental health crisis. There is zero educational benefit of a school requiring social media. In fact, social media is a major liability.

Thousands of students in Kansas walked into high school last fall and were required by their school to interface with companies that allow: suicide content, anorexic coaching, sextortion, human trafficking, cyberbullying, drug access, self-harm challenges, and many more atrocious harms. In order to participate in their activity of choice, students were required to be on a platform that profits off of polarization, porn, comparison, and infinite scrolling...Platforms where the executives and engineers who design the algorithms do not even allow their own children to interface with the toxic technology they so willfully force onto our children.

We can no longer wait for social media companies to do the right thing. We have to act TODAY! When you say YES to this bill, you are saying yes to so many wonderful things such as:

laughter, empathy, respect, and true friendship.

You are saying YES to:

Increasing teens' self-esteem

to

Improving student productivity & creativity

to

Fostering real connections and building authentic community

With the stroke of your pen, you can honor and save an entire generation by giving them their life back.

